

# THE OBSERVER

Broward College Student Newspaper

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## Set Up for Success with Broward College's Teacher Education Program

**Ryan Marin**  
Bureau Chief

Broward college offers Bachelor of Science degree programs in various areas of Education. The college currently offers degrees in Exceptional Student Education, Secondary Biology, and Secondary Mathematics.

According to Elizabeth Molina, Dean of Academic Affairs, these degrees were chosen because they are considered critical shortage areas in the field of teaching.

"These areas represent the greatest need among teachers statewide. According to the Florida Education Association, schools in the state had roughly 5 percent of their teaching positions unfilled in August. At BC, we prepare highly-qualified teachers in these high need areas."

One of the biggest benefits to Broward College's education is the high level of training that students receive.

"Over the years, over 15 BCPS Teachers of the Year have graduated from our program. The fact that we assist students with passing certification exams, connect with students at a deeper level,

and always put students first is a testament of our commitment to producing the best teachers in the state," said Molina.

Along with high quality education, the program comes at an affordable price. According to Molina, students can complete their BS degree in Education for \$10,000 or go through the EPI Program for under \$3,000.

Samantha Alfonso, a student in the Exceptional Student Education program, has enjoyed her first semester in the program. Some of the biggest factors for her are the affordability and the program's emphasis on putting students first.

"I had a problem with my schedule, so I emailed Juan Ospina, Associate Dean of the Education pathway," Alfonso said. "He responded and quickly helped me fix the issue. Small things like that show how Broward College truly cares for their students."

The college also continues to help students after graduation.

"We provided assistance with passing the Florida teacher certification exams and job placement," Molina said. "We will forever collaborate with grad-

uates and continue to support them during their teaching career."

One example of this is the mock interviews that the school holds for graduates of the teacher education programs. The college hosts an event where graduates can practice their interview skills with real principals from local Broward County Schools.

Students often receive job offers from this event and go on to work at those schools. The school also offers test prep for exams needed to become a teacher and assistance with creating a resume, showing they prepare students for life during and after Broward College.

To apply for the program, you must have graduated with an associate degree in education, have a 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale, and taken an introduction to education course. For more information about the teacher education program, you can go to <https://www.broward.edu/academics/education/>.

The college also offers Bachelor of Applied Science in Information Technology, supervision and management, technology management, and supply chain

Photo Courtesy of broward.edu

management and a Bachelor of Science in nursing.

Statistics show the school is one of the nation's leading colleges for students seeking a successful career. According to Broward College's website, the school was named #1 in Florida for the number of industry certifications awarded to students. "Students earned 1,535 industry certifications or licenses in the areas of public safety, health-

care, information technology, manufacturing and transportation."

For more information about admission into one of BC's bachelors programs, visit <https://www.broward.edu/admissions/bachelors-programs.html>

[Marir34@mail.broward.edu](mailto:Marir34@mail.broward.edu)

## Broward College Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

**Leonardo Lopez**  
Staff Writer

With Broward College officially having kicked off its annual Hispanic Heritage Month celebration on Sept. 15, several events have been announced to take place throughout the duration of the cultural period.

As Hispanic American Month spans through Oct. 15, it is important to note that October also observes Italian History Month. Domenica Diraviam, Senior Instructional Designer for blended courses as well as adjunct faculty of French and Italian, will be collaborating with Dr. Sammy Rastagh, BC Sociology professor, in hosting a presentation named "Songs of Freedom."

"This year for Italian American

and Hispanic Heritage Month, we decided to approach the topic of music as part of the immigrant experience. I am looking at it from a historical lens through the folk music that accompanied Italian immigrants during the Great Migration and how it evolved in subsequent generations. Dr. Rastagh is elaborating on the social component and examining the modern implications through Latin American music," Diraviam said. This event will be held virtually on Sept. 30.

That same day, Elisa Albo, Associate Professor of English and English as a Second Language professor at Broward College is presenting her friend Caridad Morogronier, who is a Miami poet,

teacher, friend and anthology co-editor of Albo.

During this Zoom event, Morogronier will read her new collection of poems, and together they will discuss them through the lens of the event's subtitle, "Confronting Homophobia in the Diaspora;" posing questions as what it is like to come out to oneself and their families within the Cuban culture.

"My hope is that attendees will be inspired to read her work, write their own stories and feel supported in their individual identity journeys. They'll also enjoy it. We'll have a Q & A session at the end and may even do a little writing if there's time, which I'm sure will be engaging," Albo said.

Lauren Adamo, Director of Student Life at the Central Campus since last November, will hold a virtual seminar on Oct. 5 entitled "Afro Latino: When Cultures Collide."

"[During the meeting,] We will establish some common definitions for terms [such as Hispanic, Latino, Afro Latino, etc.] and then show parts of a YouTube video of young adults having a conversation about the relationship between the Black and Latin American communities. We will also allow for attendees to weigh in on their experiences and opinions on what they have seen and experienced related to these topics," Adamo said.

On Oct. 7, Stephen Balkaran, Civil Rights Project Coordinator of Central Connecticut State University and adjunct Political Science professor of Broward Central Campus, will be presenting another seminar.

Discussing his book: "Before We Were Called Hispanics," the speech will cover the socioeconomic, political and historical presence and contributions of Latin Americans in this country; tracing its background in early American History.

"I hope that attendees will gain knowledge and empowerment with this discussion. I believe true history needs to reflect everyone in a positive way. [In my 22 years of reading American History and American Politics textbooks as a professor, I

have rarely seen as many people of color]. I want students to leave with a bigger understanding of our true history as a whole," Balkaran said.

Additionally, Adamo and the Student Life team at Central Campus will be hosting the "Vamos a Tomar un Café" event that will take place on Oct. 13 in the Building 9 patio of the Central Campus.

"My students wanted to have a simple coffee event where general students could relax and connect, so we hired a coffee cart service for the day. They also wanted them to be able to design their own coffee mug so they had a takeaway from the event... We wanted to add a fun element for Hispanic Heritage Month so we will be adding some common Spanish expressions with their origin for students to familiarize themselves with, and possibly even decorate on their keepsake mug," said Adamo.

Finally, there will be an 8 p.m. screening of Disney and Pixar's Academy Award winning feature, "Coco" in the South Campus lake area on Oct. 15, the final evening of the celebration. With its Mexican setting and its inspiration from The Day of the Dead, the animated film honors the rich culture of the Latin American country.

For information on what time these events will be held, see the Broward College event calendar website at <https://calendar.broward.edu/>. [lopel126@mail.broward.edu](mailto:lopel126@mail.broward.edu)



Photo Courtesy: Learn Spanish Online

# Keep up with BC: what's going on around campus?



## August 16 - October 20

Broward College in partnership with UrgentMed will provide COVID-19 testing and vaccination to all Broward College students, faculty, and staff.

### Hours: 10 A.M. - 1 P.M.

MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS
<b>A. Hugh Adams Central Campus</b> 3501 SW Davie Road Davie, FL 33314	<b>North Campus</b> 1000 Coconut Creek Blvd. Coconut Creek, FL 33066	<b>Judson A. Samuels South Campus</b> 7200 Pines Blvd. Pembroke Pines, FL 33024
<b>COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination</b> Bldg. 10 Room 115 and 115A	<b>COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination</b> Bldg. 60 Room 207	<b>COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination</b> Bldg. 65 Suite 110

#### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Testing and vaccinations locations are for Broward College students and employees only
- Photo I.D. required and insurance card (if applicable)
- If you are uninsured you may still obtain testing and vaccination at no cost
- Vaccine doses received at any provider are eligible; on-site vaccine doses are not required to qualify

**\$250**  
**VACCINE INCENTIVE**

- Available for students, faculty and staff who become fully vaccinated beginning 8/16/2021
- Must show proof of final dose before the end of the program 10/23/2021

## THE OBSERVER

Broward College Student Newspaper

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STAY INFORMED: [BROWARD.EDU/coronavirus](https://www.broward.edu/coronavirus)

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 Friday : 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
 Saturday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
 Sunday: 2:00 PM - 10:00 PM

For more information, visit [broward.edu/library](https://www.broward.edu/library)

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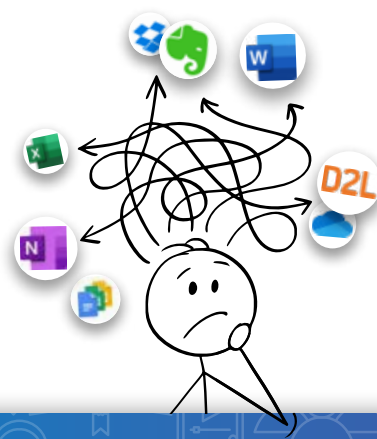
**BOOK A STUDENT RESEARCH APPOINTMENT:**  
<https://broward.libcal.com/appointments/>

**EMAIL US:**  
[library@broward.edu](mailto:library@broward.edu)

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## ACADEMIC TOOLBOX

— Tech Tips for Success —

Thursday  
**SEPTEMBER 23**

Tuesday  
**OCTOBER 19**

**4 - 5 PM**  
Join our ZOOM meeting:  
[bit.ly/3DHkJ3L](https://bit.ly/3DHkJ3L)

**Presented by:**  
**Jennifer Killam**  
Assistant Professor, EAP  
**Andrew Dutka**  
Archives and Special Collections Librarian

- Open for faculty, staff and students
- 1 hour PD credit for faculty and staff (look for WPT031 in MyLearning)

**AHCD** Arts, Humanities, Communication, Design  
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## Broward College Ambassadors are Here to Help

**Marquis Grant**  
Staff Writer

If you've ever been swamped with balancing your work and wished there were some sort of Siri like service for your schoolwork, then look no further than the Broward College Ambassadors.

The Broward College Ambassadors are members of a new service at Broward College introduced early this year that functions as students have said, like "the Siri or Alexa of the college." This references how the ambassadors, with just a call, are able to get students what they need for a smooth and efficient higher education experience.

Andrea Alvarez is one of the ambassadors whom students have called "amazing" due to her helping them with their college process by doing things such as checking in, reminding them about deadlines and informing students about signing up for classes, financial aid, and best use of online services such as on the Broward College website.

Alvarez aims as an ambassador to be a "voice that can patiently stay with students as long as needed to make sure they are assisted properly and correctly, continuing throughout their time at BC and beyond." This goal has been suc-



Image courtesy of Broward College

cessful as affirmed by students including Leonardo Rendon and Algin Peralta.

Rendon, a freshman criminal justice major, appreciated in particular the fast responses and stated that Alvarez is the only person he goes to for information at Broward College. She has reminded Rendon of deadlines such as signing up for classes and informed him of opportunities and financial aid.

Peralta has been at BC for several years, possibly since 2013, and currently is working on a music technology degree. He has stated that Alvarez,

through the ambassadors, has helped stop a lot of desperation for a smoother, more effective college process. Alvarez informed him about Q-less through the BC website, which allows for faster help with questions about advising and financial aid, which can be utilized rather than going in person to campus and having to wait in line. Peralta called the service "amazing".

While Alvarez and other ambassadors do not currently have a physical location, they are normally available Monday-Friday from 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. If an ambassador has

reached out to you, you can call them whenever you need them at these designated times for help with managing your college needs.

Ambassadors have reached out to students via phone call and email and focus on outbound calls to students rather than receiving incoming initial calls in order to keep the call stream manageable.

The ambassadors are an additional service to the ones that have already been present at Broward College such as financial aid and the academic success center which ambassadors may direct students to when

the help is relevant to these departments.

Students can still reach these departments when not in contact with an ambassador by going on campus to building 46 at North Campus, building 19 on Central and building 68 on South Campus. For all other scenarios, the Broward College ambassadors are a new addition to our school providing a service for a smoother and more efficient college experience.

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## Three Feet Are Better Than None

**Jessica Kladerman**  
Editor in Chief

When most people wake up in the morning, before they even reach over to check their phone, the first thing they do is stretch their arms and legs until they feel their stiff limbs wake up too. For Broward College alumna Liana McCrea, waking up to her chronic illness is like something out of a horror movie.

"Every day it feels like a cattle prod in my shoulder and razor blades in my back, which affect my movement and basic self-agency. Brain fog and ADD affect my concentration and cognitive ability," explains McCrea, who first experienced paralysis on April 10, 2019.

McCrea attended Broward College from 2012 to 2015, and again from 2017-2018, dedicating the first two and a half years of her college career to the school in the Criminal Justice program. She was also involved in the Information Technology, IT, program. Her goal was to acquire her Bachelor of Applied Science in Information Technology and eventually become an IT Project Manager, someday dreaming to own her own business.

"I was devastated after a conversation with a professor who advised me to return to BC when I became 'more stable'

- in turn, I increased my workload to support my family, and tucked my dreams away until a later date. I later became paralyzed from the waist down and began to adjust to a new life of dealing with what would later be a slew of chronic illnesses," said McCrea about her final days at BC.

Since leaving BC and experiencing total paralysis from the waist down, not once but twice, McCrea has had quite the load on her plate. Between battling for disability recognition and learning about business continuity in her spare time, she has had to navigate two rare conditions: Functional Neurological Disorder (FND) and Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS).

"Sometimes I can't walk. Sometimes I have difficulty speaking and when I do, my face is disfigured, and my speech is slurred. Communication can be difficult. I now walk with a cane, but three feet are better than none! I've learned how to cope with intermittent bouts of self-agency. Each day is a new day, and symptoms come and go, so I am learning to appreciate each moment and build the community I haven't found for myself in Cybersecurity," McCrea said about what living with chronic illnesses has taught her.

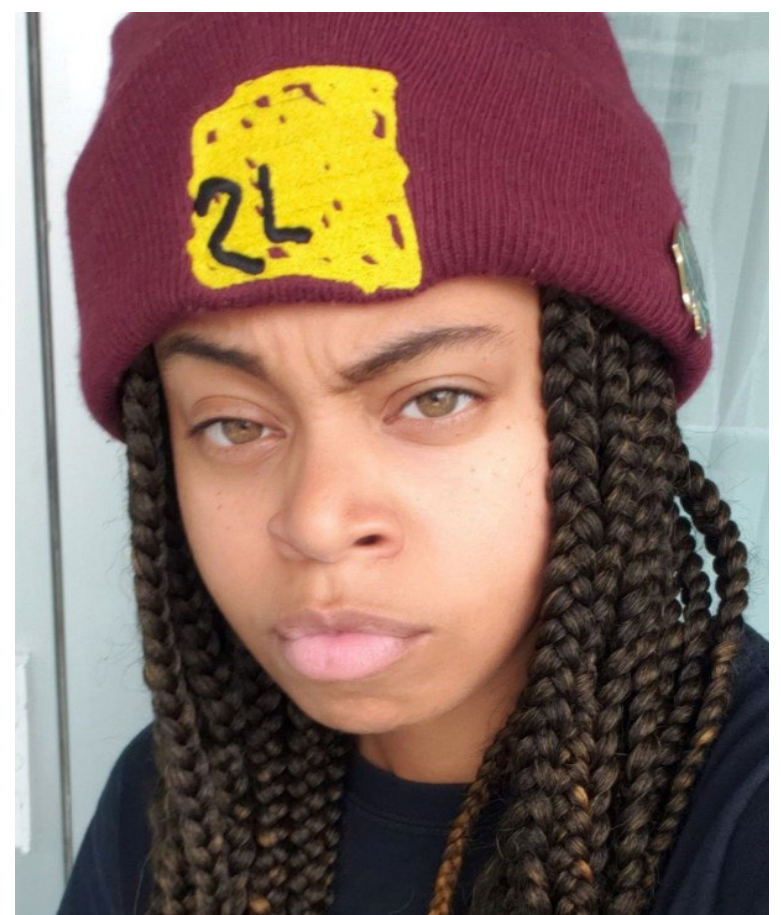
"I performed a talk for DEF CON 29's Career Hacking Vil-

lage, becoming the first member of the Gullah Geechee Nation (the Gullah Geechee people that make up the sovereign nation are descendants of the first generation of African slaves, taken to America for their blacksmithing skills, in the Sea Island area extending from South Florida to North Carolina) to produce a Cybersecurity based talk in an industry where the percentage of Black and Indigenous individuals is less than the phalanges on my baby hand," McCrea continues.

In both the IT industry and the world of academia there is always more work to do in terms of inclusivity and creating access for people with disabilities. "I would like to see more organizations geared towards the Disabled Community at BC. Broward County has such a beautiful culture of foods, sounds and people and if we can bring that all together in the name of outreach and education, my heart would swell," said McCrea.

To anyone who may be struggling with chronic illness or advocating for their mental and physical health, McCrea has this to say, "Do NOT be afraid to be yourself. You take a risk in life every day, so why not take a risk on yourself and tell your story?"

BC's Seahawk Outreach Services team works to provide



Broward College Alum Liana McCrea, photo courtesy of her as well.

access to necessities like food and hygiene items, student counseling services and community support like legal aid. There are a couple inclusive education programs available, Navigating Education for Student Transition, or NEST, as well as the College Preparatory Transition Deferment Program. To learn more about Broward College's accessibility please

[click here](#) to visit the website.

[kladjl@mail.broward.edu](mailto:kladjl@mail.broward.edu)

# College Scholarships at BC are Numerous and Money-Saving

**Marquis Grant**  
Staff Writer

Finances in college and university are often important and can be a challenge for students to manage. Scholarships often provide access for many students to attend a higher education institution. Many students may not know that they are still able to apply for and receive scholarships after acceptance and while attending a college or university.

According to Tara Jones, Associate VP of Student Financial Services at Broward College, Broward College students can also apply for Broward College institutional scholarships each year by completing the FAFSA at [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov) and then the BC scholarship application.

The FAFSA application opens each Oct. 1 for the upcoming award year. The Broward College scholarship application opens each July 1 at the website <https://www.broward.edu/admissions/financial-aid/scholarships/>.

Students will be considered

for all available scholarships offered through BC once they have completed the FAFSA and scholarship application each year and there is state aid and external scholarships listed on this site as well.

There are also many external scholarship sites such as [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com). Jones said that the key to applying for external scholarships is organization and students should apply for as many scholarships as possible to increase their award chances. Paying attention to deadlines for scholarships is important and students can make a basic template highlighting their accomplishments and what makes them unique relative to the scholarship for which they are applying.

Writing a concise paragraph about your background and goals to show how you meet the requirements of an organization's financial assistance program(s) is a great way to prepare to send an organization a letter to apply or inquire about scholarships and financial assistance. If this letter is just to find out if the organization

offers aid, writing a short paragraph about how your background and ambitions coincide with the mission of the organization might qualify you for any assistance that may be available.

Jones also recommends never pay a fee to apply for a scholarship and for students to use discretion and diligence with their personally identifiable information while applying for scholarships.

Scholarship use differs some amongst our local students. Taje Butler, a newly transferred college student from the Bahamas, is now at FAU but was aware of and applied for scholarships at a university in the Bahamas. Butler shared since being in America she has not received much information about scholarships or applied for new ones, but she is doing well regardless, taking roles in student organizations including being treasurer for the NAACP club at FAU.

Butler is not actively looking for scholarships but is interested in learning more about them and was glad to hear some of the information

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USING SCHOOL CODE **001500**

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For additional information, email:  
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Image Courtesy of Broward College

and advice coming from Jones and Financial aid sources and said that she would be willing to apply for a scholarship in the future.

Another student, Javoy Oates, a nursing student at Broward College, did know about being able to apply for scholarships in college but has not done so although she shared that she is interested in doing so in the future. Oates said that she had not heard

much information about scholarships other than a few that require essays, but she gladly welcomed more information.

Students can always reach out to financial aid services at Broward College directly via the website, on campus, or apply for scholarships directly through any of the sites listed here or external ones.

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## The NSLS and Why More Students Should Take Part in it

**Gabriella Small**  
Layout Editor

If you're a student with a GPA above 2.75, you might've gotten an email from something called the NSLS, also known as the National Society of Leadership and Success. At first, you might be confused and think it's just a random spam email, but if you do decide to open it, you will come to find an honor society that leaves you with a world of opportunities sitting at your fingertips.

The National Society of Leadership and Success has a straightforward mission statement to "recognize, cultivate, and honor leaders, all while making lasting, positive change in the world."

The society succeeds in many ways of staying true to this goal. For one, there are chapter events that strive to inspire members, bring them closer together, and help them develop their leadership skills. Though these events are mainly speech based, the words they say can and have led much of the members to

becoming more active in their school lives and making positive changes in their communities.

Vittoria Wakefield, an NSLS member from Florida State University, revealed in a video featured on the NSLS' website that through watching the broadcasts she "became so motivated by the stories that our speakers told us" and that meeting other members reminded her that she was in a group that wanted to "see me grow and help me grow."

One other way the NSLS helps its members is by offering exclusive scholarships every academic year. This year, the NSLS plans to distribute over

\$400,000 in scholarships and rewards exclusively to those apart of the foundation.

There are a total of 14 different scholarships being offered this year. There are some scholarships that are offered to all members such as the United By Purpose scholarship where \$3,000 is offered to five recipients who "want to engage in raising awareness for promoting diversity, equity, and inclusivity on campus" and the Healthy Living Grant that offers \$1,000 to 10 recipients that need extra assistance in achieving their health and/or fitness goals.

There are also scholarships specifically provided to new members, online members,

and advanced and executive leadership certification members.

The reason I feel that more students should involve themselves in this honors society is because they would gain more by becoming a member instead of ignoring the invitation. Although the membership fee is a daunting \$95, I feel that, if one can afford it, investing that money into this society is a good idea to make in the long run.

The benefits of being a member mentioned above are only a small part of an even longer list. As a new member myself, I haven't been able to do much with my membership yet, but

Image Courtesy of [nslsvideos.org](http://nslsvideos.org)

I've been able to listen to some of the broadcasts and specifically Winter Wheeler's Motivation Mondays talk about mediating conflicts with kindness and have started to morph my mindset into one that is kinder, studious and reflective. To become involved in the NSLS, you first need to look for your emailed or mailed nomination, find the nomination code that corresponds to your campus, and visit the [nsls.org](http://nsls.org) website.

For more information on the NSLS, contact Dr. Lauren Adamo at [ladamo@broward.edu](mailto:ladamo@broward.edu).

[smalg5@mail.broward.edu](mailto:smalg5@mail.broward.edu)



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# LATIN FIGURE SPOTLIGHT

## SPORTS

**Messi**, full name **Lionel Andrés Messi**, is an Argentine professional football player. He was one of the highest-paid and is still one of the most well-known football players around the world, being regarded as the best football player of his generation. Born on June 24th, 1987, in Rosario, Argentina, he always had a love for football. Currently, he has played 778 games, scoring 672 goals and 266 assists, in total playing a direct role in 938 goals and achieving a Guinness World Records title for most goals scored in a calendar year.

## MESSI



## AOC



## ACTIVISTS

**Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez**, widely known by her initials, AOC, is a Puerto Rican American politician, activist, and economist. She was born on October 13th, 1989, in Bronx, New York. She has served as the U.S. democratic representative for New York's 14th congressional district since 2019. She has helped campaign-finance reform go viral after pressuring 2020 presidential candidates into supporting her Green New Deal. Her efforts have translated so few votes into a great amount of political and social capital fast and has made her become one of the most well-known politicians among the younger generation.



**Pedro Jaime Martinez** is a Dominican-American professional baseball pitcher who played in Major League Baseball from 1992 to 2009. Born on October 25th, 1971, he is known as one of the greatest pitchers of all time. He played for a total of five teams, being a part of the Boston Red Sox from 1998 to 2004. At the time of his retirement, he was one of only four pitchers with at least 3,000 strikeouts and fewer than 1,000 walks.

## PEDRO

## STEM

**Ellen Ochoa** is a Mexican American engineer and former astronaut who became the first Latin woman to go to space in 1993. Born on May 10th, 1958, she became interested in space flight when she saw Sally Ride become the first American woman to go into space while attending Stanford University. Since then, she has flown into space four times and has received four awards from NASA, including a Space Flight Medal and a Distinguished Service Medal.

## OCHOA



## SELENA



## ENTERTAINMENT

**Selena**, full name **Selena Quintanilla-Pérez**, was a Mexican American woman of many titles, mainly being a singer. Born on April 16th, 1971, in Lake Jackson, Texas, her talent was recognized at six by her father, who she wowed with her singing ability. She had a total of seven number one hits on the Hot Latin Songs chart and received a Grammy Award for Best Mexican/Mexican-American Album for her album *Selena Live*. Although she passed away in 1995, her legacy remains strong as she is one of the most loved and celebrated Mexican American entertainers of the late 20th century.



**Cesar Chavez** was a Mexican American labor leader and civil rights activist who co-founded the National Farm Workers Association, which later merged and formed into the United Farm Workers union. Born on March 31st, 1927, in Yuma, Arizona, his family suffered heavily due to the Great Depression and had to move to California to find work. There, they lived their life as migrant farm workers and Chavez quickly became aware of the unjust ways that farm workers were treated by their employers. His efforts as an activist amounted into many things, such as minimum wage standards being set, child labor being reformed, and an advancement in rights for Chicanos and other farm workers.

## CHAVEZ



**Franklin Ramón Chang Díaz** is a Costa Rican American mechanical engineer, physicist, and former NASA astronaut. Born on April 5th, 1950, in San Jose Costa Rica, to a father of Chinese heritage and a mother of Costa Rican descent, he always dreamed of becoming an astronaut and a U.S. citizen. He achieved both of his dreams, becoming an American citizen in 1977 and flying his first mission to outer space in 1994. He has participated in an outstanding total of seven spaceflights, those of which contributed to major US space accomplishments, including the successful deployment of the Galileo spacecraft to Jupiter.

## FRANKLIN

**Lin-Manuel Miranda** is a Puerto Rican American actor, singer, and playwright well known for his play *Hamilton*. He was born on January 16th, 1980, in New York City. The first Broadway musical he watched at age seven, *Les Misérables*, left a large imprint on him and inspired him to become who he is today. His first musical won 4 Tony 2008 Awards, a Grammy award, and a heap of other awards for its production. He was then able to go on to write and preview *Hamilton* at the White House during its first Evening of Poetry & Spoken Word in 2009. He is still breaking records today and is one of the most well-known Latin American playwrights of the 21st century.



## LIN

# New York Welcomes Fashion Week Back In Person

**Jessica Kladerman**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

For the last two years fashion shows have been almost exclusively virtual events. In the fashion and entertainment industry the show must always go on. Designers, models, and other members of the industry have made many sacrifices and have had to adapt to strict COVID-19 policies to keep the beast of fashion fed.

This year, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Department of Health issued strict guidelines welcoming back New York Fashion Week (NYFW) for the Spring and Summer season for 2022, also referred to as SS22. According to [governor.ny.gov](http://governor.ny.gov) all vendors must keep guest counts at or below 50 people and operate at 50 percent of the maximum capacity approved for the venue; social distancing must be observed by all participants, as well as temperature checks before entry. Anyone involved in NYFW must also keep to travel advisories, as well as regular diagnostic testing and screening showing negative COVID-19 results. Finally, face coverings must be worn at all times during events.

One rule that is unwavering is a lack of spectator presence. Not only must the models be vaccinated but the first two rows of prestigious on-lookers must also be fully inoculated to attend. With a limit of no more than 50 guests, show production companies have had to limit guest lists to essential parties only.

There were several trends that were apparent throughout the weekend. Glitz and glam shown through several lines from Vietnamese American designer Peter Do, to the iconic Tom Ford's closing show revealing heavily Disco inspired looks paying homage to Fashion Weeks hometown of New York City.

Collina Strada spotlighted an inclusive line up of models spanning in age, race, gender, and disabilities revealing quite the accessible runway. Strada's collection expressed a chaotic theme of reconnecting to different archetypes on oneself, brought on by Hillary Taymour, the company's creative director. Throughout the collection recycled materials were used to bring life to raffia bags, nylon dresses and deadstock, unsellable, fruit T-shirts.

There was an avant-garde trend

seen among several designers allowing makeup artists brushes to run freely. A cosmic radiance came from models of Eckhaus Latta who were dressed in muted fabrics that looked almost alien, which in the fashion world is quite the compliment. We saw this trend continue with Saint Sintra's children's book inspired collection which was not so safe for work. This collection showed attention to detail down to laced embroidered pieces to metallic woven fabrics, giving a peek into the kaleidoscope of the designer's imagination.

Bold and bright colors were drizzled throughout the shows of the weekend seen Dur Doux, mother and daughter twosome, Cynthia and Najla Burt. This collection aims to create luxury pieces accessible to the middle class. These pieces were created to have an avant-garde look while still being wearable. House of Aama showed a moving collection inspired by nautical black resort's that were popular in the US at the turn of the 20th century, paying homage to powerful and gracious Yoruba water spirits. Another talented mother daughter team, Rebecca

Henry and Akua Shabaka, led the creative direction for House of Aama with their thought-



Collina Strada explores the inner self through early 2000s skater fashion September 7, 2021. Photo Courtesy of vice.com

out story telling through the collection.

In contrast to the bright and bold color selections were warm and earthy tones. Chelsea Grays has returned to NYFW this year with a collection entitled The Cookout. This collection explores the concept of unity and togetherness though an event that is symbolic throughout the entire black community, focusing on menswear. Chelsea Grays creates a feeling of comfort and hope through use of linen and tapestry with warped prints in several pieces. The brand has always created collections that raise awareness of timely

social issues ranging from police brutality, homelessness and colorism always leaving on-lookers with more reflective questions than answers.

There were many designers weaving a message of hope throughout their ensembles. As we learn more about COVID-19 and can better combat ourselves and our community there is hope that better days are ahead as New York Fashion Week closes for another successful season.

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# THE OBSERVER

Broward College Student Newspaper

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## Amazon's *Invincible* Does Realism Right

**Atticus Leeds**

*Layout Editor*

*Invincible* is an adult animated superhero series based on the comic book series created for Image Comics by Robert Kirkman, Cory Walker and Ryan Ottley. Its first season is currently hosted on Amazon Prime, and it is renewed for a second and third season.

The series stars the voice talents of Steven Yuen as Mark Grayson / *Invincible* (the titular protagonist), J.K. Simmons as his father, Nolan Grayson / Omni-Man and Sandra Oh as his mother, Debbie Grayson. I will do my best to avoid story spoilers in the following review, but since subverting expectations is at the show's core, some hidden essentials will be revealed here.

The universe of *Invincible* is quickly set up as one very similar to the DC Universe's Justice League, featuring a team of superheroes, the Guardians of the Globe, each of them loosely based on original Justice League characters, who work together to cleanly foil the plot of the Mauler Twins, two blue-skinned clones (wonderfully voiced by Kevin Michael Richardson, these two are some of my favorites) who appear to be garden variety supervillains.

The episode continues, showing Mark's relationship with both of his parents: his father, Nolan, known as Omni-Man, an alien from the planet Viltrum, and the show's equivalent of Superman, and his mother, Debbie, who is a normal human.

Being half-viltrumite and half-human, Mark develops superpowers of his own and goes out for training with his father; there is a bit of low-key drama between Mark and his parents, but nothing out of place for a coming-of-age story. The episode runs with this facade until the very end, where the show reveals its true brutal and gritty tone with the plot's actual inciting incident and completely recontextualizes certain things earlier in the episode.

This show has a lot of blood and gore, as well as death scenes that are quite disturbing. If these are things that you can't handle then *Invincible* is probably not going to be your cup of tea. However, there is far more to this series than its brutality. It develops a complex and lovable roster of characters, a thrilling conspiracy and a large universe of aliens, government secrets, magic and strange tech that is kept just mysterious enough to make you wonder.

One thing that I enjoy about



Image courtesy of Amazon

the show is that, while it deals in plenty of ethical complexity, it never surrenders the line between hero and villain; it does not present us a universe without hope and those who are willing to do what's right.

I also think it does a good job at keeping its deaths just rare enough to avoid an emotional disconnect from the audience and create a real impact when a death does happen.

*Invincible* lets you care about its characters but does not bludgeon you over the head for it. On a technical note, I'll be brief. The animation is good, though it doesn't go much beyond the style expected of a western superhero animation,

the writing is generally top

notch and the voice cast does a great job, featuring veterans and newcomers alike.

One of my personal critiques of the series is that the stock 'redshirt' characters without powers, such as nameless agents and soldiers, are too willing to engage threats in close combat that they should know they have no hope of hindering, let alone defeating.

It seems like these highly trained individuals are throwing their lives away for no reason, and the show does this to up the brutality at the expense of our ability to suspend disbelief. If one of *Invincible*'s purposes is to present a more realistic superhero universe, it needs to remember that more realism

and more brutality are not necessarily the same thing.

All in all, *Invincible* was a delight to watch. I had trouble putting it down while I was watching, and it gave me a ton to think about after it was over. If you enjoy gritty and complex superhero stories and aren't bothered by some of the show's brutal elements, *Invincible* is something you should definitely check out.

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## Lore Olympus, a Modern Take on the Myth of Persephone

**Colette Tamburini**

*Online Editor*

Greek Mythology takes a modern twist in Rachel Smythe's *Lore Olympus*, a retelling of the Abduction of Persephone legend. Since its debut in March 2018 on the platform Webtoon, the webcomic has garnered over 299 million views and 5.3 million subscribers. It's no secret that *Lore Olympus*' popularity is mainly due to the engaging story, stellar characters, and unique art style.

*Lore Olympus* follows Persephone, the naïve and warmhearted Goddess of Spring, as she ventures to Olympus. Despite being a goddess, she was never treated as such by her mother, Demeter, and has been hidden away for most of her life. An opportunity "springs" up when her best friend, Artemis, takes her to a night party amongst gods such as Zeus, Poseidon and the mysterious Hades.

After a breakup with former partner Minthe, Hades isn't too keen on attending Zeus' party. But when glancing at Persephone, he is stunned, thinking her beauty rivals Aphrodite's. The Goddess of Beauty is of course jealous, to which she calls her son, Eros, to intoxicate Persephone and dump her to the backseat of Hades' car.

However, instead of looking at Persephone as an embarrassment, Hades takes pity and decides to bring her to his home as a guest. This leads to their slow



Hades and Persephone

Image courtesy of media.comicbook.com

burn relationship throughout the series as they try to balance duty and love. As they grow close, so does ever-looming threats that could tear them apart.

Another aspect that shines in *Lore Olympus* is Rachel Smythe's art. The New Zealand artist uses tools such as watercolor wet pencil to bring her characters and backgrounds to life. The wash texture is very neat and stands out as Smythe's signature style. A good example of Smythe's lovely art are the character designs. The Greek gods are colorful and their fashion mostly on point. I especially adore Hera's outfits and the regal robes the gods wear

for when they go down to the mortal realm.

But through the darkness, there is the light of having funny, caring and relatable characters like the supportive Eros, the strict Hecate, and more. A personal (and obvious) favorite character of mine is Persephone. I love how kind and awkward she can be, even with her god-like powers.

Many people look up to a strong female protagonist as a bad-a\*\*, sword wielding warrior. But in my eyes, despite all the trauma and hardships she's facing, Persephone's soft, gentle nature is truly relatable.

In an interview with Dan Ekis

on YouTube, Smythe mentions that "we need representation for softer people, who their idea of having a breakthrough is just verbally learning how to stand up for themselves" and that representation matters for many young women.

I appreciate the topics discussed on *Lore Olympus* about abuse, trauma, rape and other serious themes. Smythe addresses these issues from the original myths and shows just how flawed and dangerous the Greek gods can be. She writes them as humans and how their actions are inexcusable of causing harm to others. I won't spoil anything, but later in the

series, one of the gods goes to therapy and that scene caused me to cry a lot.

*Lore Olympus* is definitely worth the hype. If you are looking for a Greek retelling to obsess over, look no further! *Lore Olympus* has chapter updates on Webtoon.

You can also preorder a copy of *Lore Olympus: Volume One*, which collects the first 25 episodes including a brand-new short story. The graphic novel releases Tuesday, Nov. 2.

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# New Movies Worth Watching in the Coming Months

## Lachin Kerbabaeva

Staff Writer

The end of September again pleases the audience with impressive premieres. The documentary *Eating Our Way to Extinction*, directed by Ludo and Otto Brockways and narrated by Kate Winslet, was released on Sept. 16.

The film takes viewers on a journey around the world from Scotland to the Amazon rainforest, telling stories about food production and its impact on the environment. Throughout the documentary, people at the epicenter of the climate crisis share their experiences. It stars local activists, celebrities and academics who add their verdicts on the most pressing issue of our generation.

*Blue Bayou* (2021), directed by Justin Chon, was released on Sept. 16. The script is based on real events. The plot revolves around the story of Antonio LeBlanc (played by Justin Chon), who was adopted in Korea, grew up in the United States, in a small town of Louisiana. He marries the love of his life Katie (Alicia Vikander), with whom he brings up his beloved daughter Jessie. However, as a result of his accidental arrest, he came under the jurisdiction of the US Immigration and Customs Service. LeBlanc faces

deportation and fights the system.

Another interesting film is released on Sept. 23 on the Netflix streaming platform with Jake Gyllenhaal. *The Guilty* is a remake of the Danish thriller of the same name by director Antoine Fuqua (*Southpaw*, 2015) and screenwriter Nic Pizzolatto, showrunner of *True Detective*.

The plot of the film begins with a usual working day for a rescue operator who receives a strange call from a woman in mortal danger. The main character tries to help her, but everything turns out to be much more complicated than it seems. The film stars Ethan Hawke (*Dead Poets Society*, 1989), Peter Sarsgaard (*Boys Don't Cry*, 1999), Riley Keough (*The House That Jack Built*) and Paul Dano (*Little Miss Sunshine*).

The next film will appeal to every person who once felt lonely, the dramatic musical *Dear Evan Hansen*, directed by Stephen Chbosky, who is known for the famous teen drama *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (2012).

Key roles in the film were played by Ben Platt, Amy Adams, Julianne Moore, Kaitlyn Dever, and Amandla Stenberg.

*Dear Evan Hansen* tells the touching story of a high school student with social phobia. The attending physician advised him to write a letter to himself, but it falls into the hands of Connor, Evan's classmate. A few days later, Evan learns that Connor

committed suicide, and parents of Connor found a letter with him that begins with the words "Dear Evan Hansen."

The film broadcasts a simple, but very important reality in modern thought: "You are not alone." Prior to the creation of the film, the musical with the same name had been shown on Broadway for many years since 2015.

The role of the main character in the film was played by the same actor as in the play. The actor who played a school student is 27-years-old. The constant postponement of filming due to the COVID-19 pandemic led to the fact that Ben Platt was already ready to give up the main role of his career due to the fact that he risked not looking like a school student. Fortunately, the movie was filmed, and the viewers can see it on the big screens on Sept. 23.

The sequel of *Venom: Let There Be Carnage* will be released on Sept. 30. It tells the story of the confrontation between Eddie Brock (Tom Hardy) who turned to *Venom* and serial killer Cletus Kasady (Woody Harrelson).

Kasady appeared in the first film only in the scene after the credits, but in the upcoming movie the character will receive noticeably more screen time and team up with the symbiote Carnage. Cletus Kasady will be paired with the supervillain Shriek, portrayed



*Blue Bayou*, starring Antonia LeBlanc

Image Courtesy of Imdb.com

by Naomie Harris.

The first part of *Venom*, directed by Ruben Fleischer, was released in 2018. With a budget of \$100 million, the film earned more than \$800 million, although it earned low ratings from film critics. The second part was directed by the inimitable Andy Serkis, best

known for his role as Gollum in the films *The Lord of the Rings* and as Caesar in *The Planet of the Apes*.

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## Slow Down *Eternal Blue* is Here

### Jessica Kladerman

Editor in Chief

For five years Canadian metalcore band has been slowly releasing enchanting and haunting singles carving the path to their debut album *Eternal Blue*. Due to COVID-19, this album took nearly two years to produce, with the recording being put on hold more often than not. Spiritbox frontwoman Courtney Laplante worked closely with her husband and guitarist Mike Singer to find creative instrumentals that pair with the ethereal lyrics throughout the album. The songs were all written with the premise of flowing from one side of a vinyl to the other.

The record starts off in what feels like another world with 'Sunkiller,' where you're introduced to eerie synthwave sounds layered with drummer Zev Rosenburg's heartbeat thumps that progress to LaPlante's enigmatic vocals, bringing you back to 2004 Amy Lee of *Evanescence*. When she begins chanting in a whisper, "Sun killer, sing me to sleep," listeners know the break down is making its way into the song. The heavy screams, that LaPlante belts out herself, pull 'Sunkiller' straight into the next song 'Hurt You.'

Singer's signature guitar sound comes in hot in 'Hurt You,' whose lyrics reflect various

stages of a toxic relationship that feed off its own "dysfunction" ending in catastrophe. The music video was directed by Dylan Hryciuk who worked closely with special FX makeup artists to create an unnerving short film that matches the intensity of the song.

If you know the metal genre then you know British band Architects and their iconic front man Sam Carter, creating a lot of hype for the next song he happens to be featured on called 'Yellow Jacket.' This song is an all-out duel between Carter and LaPlante, it's certainly not for the faint of heart.

Ironically enough the following song, 'The Summit' gives listeners a moment of respite highlighting LaPlante's singing range. It falls right in sync with Singer's guitar evolution throughout the first half of the song. There's an almost animatronic shift that leads into a technically crafted resolution that is sure to get stuck in your head.

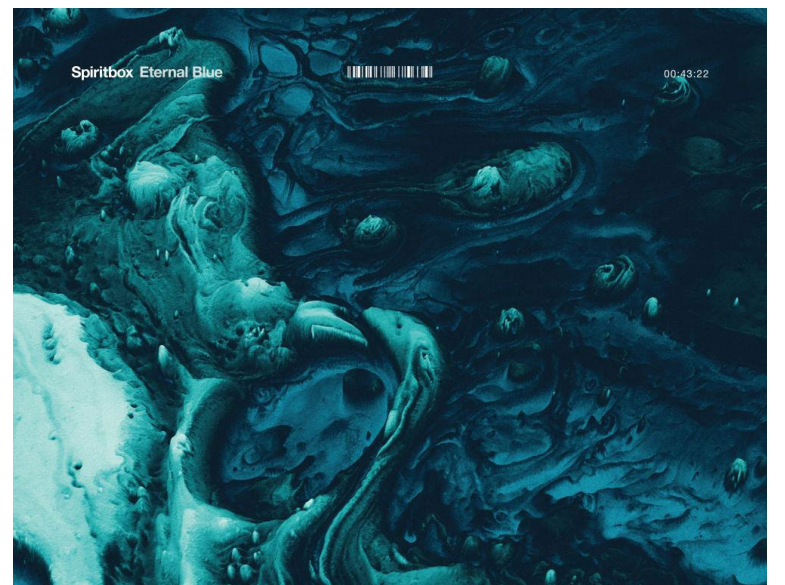
Something the band is known very well for in the metal scene is their balance of heaviness with symbolic melodies and the single 'Secret Garden' is no exception, released back on May 26 of this year. The band collaborates with director Jensen Noel, who has worked with groups like *Falling in Reverse* and *Asking Alexandria*, to create an inquisitive music video that

explores different stages of LaPlante's life.

'Silk in the Strings' wakes you back up with up-tempo beats, howls and growls. This song would create quite the pit if ever played live, and guitarist Singer did not disappoint. As you flip the vinyl, the record proceeds with the album's first single that was released on July 3, 2020, 'Holy Roller.' Because this video was recorded closer to the beginning of the pandemic the crew was bare bones, spooky pun intended. There was a heavy influence from the 2019 tale of horror *Midsommar*.

The title track 'Eternal Blue' slithers out next on the record building a momentum with LaPlante's familiar clean vocals. It's easy to lose her voice though in the layers of instrumentals between Rosenburg's drumbeats and Singer's guitar tone.

'We Live in a Strange World' has obvious pop elements shaking the album up a bit, which has surely upset a few metalheads. Synth beats tic throughout the song disappearing into 'Halcyon.' The word halcyon describes feelings of happiness, prosperity and an idyllic moment in life. So naturally the song is an ode to the happier days in life that have come and gone leading to a very reflective lyrical rundown. "These silhouettes will make me contemplate//Will I fit or fade away," questioning her



Album Art of *Eternal Blue*

Image Courtesy of Spiritbox

relevance as the song fades out.

The next song takes us on a loop, called 'Circle with Me.' Spiritbox teams up with director Ori McGinness for this chaotic tale of reclamation. The song starts off nice and heavy paired with clean vocals. My first time hearing the song I picked up on pop elements in the cadence, then Singer quickly reminded me who I was listening to with guitar riffs that got more complex as the song went on. There was a calm before the storm and suddenly LaPlante hits you with the lyrics "I have the power of a dying sun"-interesting nod to 'Sun Killer' perhaps- "I climb the altar and I claim my place as god," and Rosenburg and Singer lose it creating my favorite breakdown on the entire album.

This album would not be

complete without LaPlante's love letter to her late grandmother Phyllis, who battled dementia, in 'Constance.' Director Hryciuk was welcomed to create a film he himself needed as he also had recently lost a grandparent who was living with dementia. The video matched the intensity of the lyrical and instrumental content in the song. *Eternal Blue* was an emotional journey from beginning to end. You can find the album on all streaming platforms.

If you think someone you love may be suffering from dementia, click here to learn more about the disease on [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

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# What's Happening in Tallahassee: An Editorial

**Gabriella Small and Colette Tamburini**

*Layout Editor and Online Editor*

COVID-19 is slowly starting to become a mainstay in our society, and it's extremely upsetting. Although the numbers seemed to dip for quite a while, they are now reaching heights that didn't seem possible when the virus initially struck the country. While this is a statement that rings true for most of the world, it is especially true for the sunshine state, Florida. With potentially infected tourists frequently flying in and out of state to relax at our beaches and dine at our restaurants, combined with residents increasingly wearing less masks, it seems like many people believe that everything is back to normal. Just how bad are the numbers, though?

Florida, according to Our World in Data, is among the top 3 states in the volume of COVID-19 cases and deaths. In one week, this year, from September 7 to 14, there were an estimated 326 deaths and 12,627 cases in total.

Although these numbers seem reasonable at a glance since Florida is one of the most heavily populated states in the US, they become more concerning when you compare them to the numbers of New

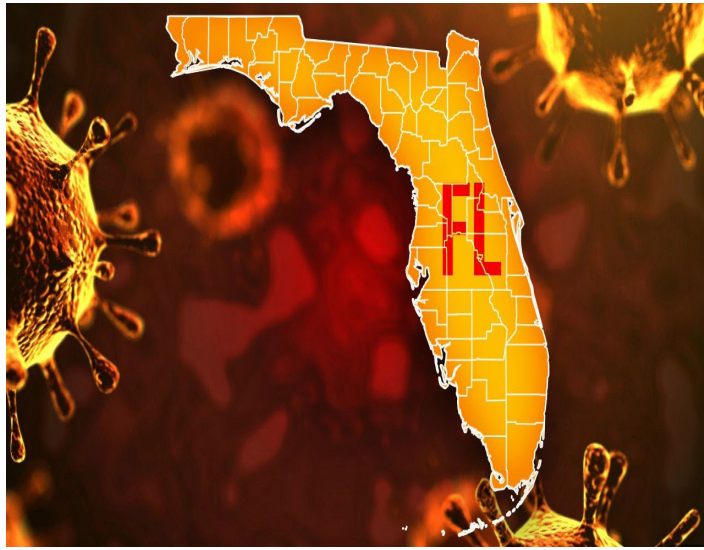


Photo Courtesy of brightspotcdn.com

York State.

New York State's population is smaller than Florida's by about 3 million, but their 7-day average case numbers are less than half of Florida's. Something that should also be paid attention to is the difference in vaccination rates, with 70 percent of New York's population having received at least one dose of the vaccine while Florida records 6 percent less.

That percentage difference may seem tiny, but when we consider that there is a common trend of COVID-nonbelievers, anti-maskers, and anti-vaxxers among the Floridian population, it's reasonable to think that the percentage difference will only grow wider with time.

It also doesn't help that Florida Governor, Ron DeSantis, opposes students wearing masks during school. In July 2021, DeSantis had issued an executive order to have parents decide whether or not their children should wear masks or opt-out.

If a school still requires masks to be worn, the state will have to cut funding to the school, which is an unfair blow. School districts such as Broward County and Miami-Dade have criticized DeSantis' rulings, recognizing that they're still in a global pandemic and the safety of students is top priority.

As of Sept. 20, Ron DeSantis' rule on banning masks mandates is still on the loop. Punishing educators and



Photo Courtesy of Dean Turpel's Blog via broward.edu

staff for protecting children in-class shouldn't have to be so controversial. According to Politico, child cases related to COVID-19 and the Delta Variant in Florida have increased to 63 percent since this August.

The response from Governor DeSantis is not only extremely disappointing, but disgustingly uncaring. Vaccines and masks have been shown to be effective for whittling down case volumes, but instead it seems like Governor DeSantis wants to demonize the two and put the safety of the Floridian population at stake.

The actions and decisions he makes seem to only fuel the wildfire of COVID and its deniers, and it doesn't look like he cares too much either

of those consequences. We can only hope that as the condition of the state gets worse, something will finally be done to quell the raging storm that is COVID-19.

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# Kevin Durant's Comeback Season

**Jordan Stephenson**  
Staff Writer

Since Kevin Durant was drafted out of college, he has been destined to be great. He was drafted No.2 overall by the Seattle SuperSonics, now called the Oklahoma City Thunder. Throughout his 14-year career he has lived up to his expectations and even outperformed his expectations. After rupturing his Achilles tendon in game 5 of the NBA Finals vs the Raptors, many analysts were not expecting KD to be his usual efficient and great self, because they were comparing him to how others came back from their Achilles injuries. In this article I'll explain the expectations on KD, how he outperformed his expectations, and how he had one of his greatest seasons ever.

KD had a fantastic 2020-21 NBA season, after not playing basketball for 18 months, because of his Achilles injury he sustained and because of the NBA shutdown because of the COVID outbreak. In the regular season, he averaged 26.9 points per game (ppg), 7.1 rebounds per game (rpg), 5.6 assists per game (apg), 1.3 blocks while shooting a career high in 53.7 percent field goals

and 45 percent, 3 pointers. He also shot 88.2 percent from the free throw line as usual.

During that season, he made the all-star team and became and all-star captain, but sadly couldn't participate in the all-star game because of a lingering hamstring injury.

I honestly was so devastated for him because he definitely deserved to play and I feel like if he played his team would've had a great chance to win that game, rather than getting blown out by Lebron's team.

Before KD had minor injuries and COVID contact tracing protocols, he was squarely top 3 in the MVP discussion. In my honest opinion, if KD wasn't subjected to all of that I feel like he would have won the MVP because of his narrative, and he would've made an All-NBA team, which he truly deserved. As a fan of KD, I was so devastated for him that he couldn't achieve any of these things because of injuries and COVID contact tracing protocols.

In the playoffs, KD elevated his game and averaged 34.3 ppg, 9.3 rpg, 4.4 apg, 1.5 steels, 1.6 blocks; while shooting 51.4 percent field goals, 40.2 percent 3 pointers, and 87.1 percent free throws. In game 5 of the ECSF vs the Bucks, he had one of his greatest overall/



Kevin Durant

Image Courtesy of nba.com

statistical games of his career.

He had 49 points, 17 rebounds, and a 10-assist triple-doubles, while playing all 48 minutes in a huge win for the Nets. This type of statistical triple-double had never been reached before in playoff history. Then in game 7 vs the Bucks, KD had 48 minutes of overtime, hit a game-tying mid-range shot, which was supposed to be a 3-pointer, but sadly his foot was on the line and they lost in overtime.

I honestly feel like if KD's foot was behind the 3-point line that he would've hit the 3, and the Nets would've won because Giannis missed the

game-winning shot. After his masterful playoff run but a heartbreaking loss to the Bucks in game 7; KD then had his eyes set on joining the USA Olympic team and winning another gold medal.

When push came to shove, KD stopped deferring and started to take over games. He became the undisputed leader of the team, the top scorer, and he became their clutch shooter in the fourth quarter. During the Olympic gold medal run, KD surpassed Carmelo Anthony for first on the all-time scoring list, while also capturing this third straight gold medal.

KD accomplished all of these feats and accomplishments,

while returning from a ruptured Achilles' tendon. In my opinion, this was the greatest if not one of the greatest comeback seasons of all time.

Also, I feel like that this was KD's best season because he exceeded expectations and elevated his team and game in the playoffs. After this great season he had, I feel like KD is the best player in the world right now. The expectations for KD and the Nets are at an all-time high, and I 100 percent believe that he'll exceed expectations.

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## The NBA's Top 5 Most Impactful Signings and Trades

**Jordan Stephenson**  
Staff Writer

In the NBA's 2021-22 free agency, there were a lot of good and solid trades and signings that could have made the list. The five most impactful signings that I'll discuss in this article are Stephen Curry, Kevin Durant and Kawhi Leonard's new extension deals. Also, Russel Westbrook's trade and Kyle Lowry's sign and trade deal.

The reason I think these signings/trades are the most impactful are because they will ultimately lead to championship contention for all five of these teams. In my opinion, my top five in order are Steph, KD, Kyle, Russ and Kawhi.

Curry signed a 4-year \$215 million extension. He became the first player in NBA history to sign two \$2 million plus contracts. He extended his contract off of his \$45.8 million salary for the 2021-22 season. This means he'll be guaranteed \$261 million over the next 5 years.

This deal is huge for him because he was coming off an MVP caliber season, where he averaged 32 points per game (ppg), 5.5 rebounds per game (rpg), and 5.8 assists per game (apg), while leading the league in scoring for the second time in his career.

Also, it's a huge deal because this means the core of the Warriors

dynasty is locked up for the future.

Durant signed a 4-year \$198 million extension. He declined his 2022-23 player option and extended off of his \$42 million salary for the 2021-22 season. This deal is great for KD and the Nets for a couple of reasons.

It's great for KD because last season he proved that he was able to return back to his old self, and eventually show in the playoffs that he could elevate his team and his game to another level, while Kyrie and Harden were injured. It's great for the Nets because since KD signed his 4-year extension, they are now able to sign Kyrie Irving and James Harden to extensions, which means they can keep their Big 3 together long term.

Lowry was apart of a sign and trade deal with the Heat and Raptors and signed a 3-year \$90 million deal. He joined the Miami Heat this summer, by the Raptors and Heat completing a sign and trade deal, it sent Precious Achiuwa and a beloved Heat favorite Goran Dragic to the Raptors.

He spent 9 great years with the Raptors, won them their first championship, and became in many people's eyes the greatest Raptor of all-time. He joined a Heat squad that are full of "dogs" like Jimmy Butler, Udonis Haslem (UD) and newly acquired NBA champion PJ Tucker. ESPN analyst Kendrick Perkins would say, "The Goons from Dade County," which refers to the Heat's toughness and



Stephen Curry signs 4 more years with Warriors at \$250 million

Images Courtesy of nba.com

their culture.

Westbrook was traded to the LA Lakers in the offseason. The Lakers agreed to a trade with the Wizards to obtain Russ, by trading away Kyle Kuzma, Montrezl Harrel and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope, also the No.22 pick in the NBA draft (sources told ESPN's WOJ).

The Athletic reported, the Wizards No.22 pick, which was Isaiah Jackson, was traded to the Pacers for Aaron Holiday, who is the younger brother of NBA champion Jrue Holiday. For the deal to be executed Harrel had to opt into his \$9.7 million player option for this season.

Sources have said Russ was very in-tuned to the idea of returning to his hometown of South California. Leonard resigned with the Clippers on a 4-year \$176.3 million max contract; it also includes a player option in the fourth year. Even though Kawhi tore his acl in game 4 of the WCSF vs the Jazz, he still was able to receive and sign a 4-year max contract.

This was very reminiscent of when KD tore his achilles tendon in game 5 of the NBA finals vs the Raptors. There was definitely no doubt in anyone's mind that both KD and Kawhi would sign their contracts after previously

suffering devastating injuries.

All in all, these five impactful signings/trades will lead to their teams being in championship contention, which is basically the main goal for all these great players. Of course, they love the money and lifestyle that comes with being in the NBA and signing huge contracts and extensions, but winning a championship is their ultimate goal. When a great player signs a huge contract or gets traded, he'll have immense pressure to win a championship, like all five of these players have.

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